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* 139-C *Q.*—Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :' Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the Government have received any instructions from the Central Government with regard to the prevention of the outbreak of cholera in Ponnani taluk, Malabar, and the measures to be taken in pursuance thereof?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" There has been an outbreak of cholera from the latter half of November 1953 in a few villages of Ponnani taluk. The Assistant District Health Officer, the District Health Officer and the Assistant Director of Public Health have visited the place and taken the necessary control measures. There are 11 special inspectors and 3 cholera overseers on duty and two motor vehicles are available for transport of patients and health personnel. There is a good infectious diseases shed under the care of the Civil Assistant Surgeon, Ponnani. Inoculations have been going on apace from the start. From 22nd November 1953 to 12th December 1953, 19,716 persons have been inoculated. The number of attacks during the period was 50 and there were 31 deaths. Chlorination, disinfection and propaganda have been well organized. Preventive staff has been posted to Chowghat Range and Tirur Range which are adjacent to Ponnani Range.

" The outbreak of the disease is reported to be due to the consumption of excessive quantities of shell fish mixed with groundnut oil cake without proper cooking. This seems to have acted as an irritant to the digestive system predisposing the patient to cholera. The District Collector has sanctioned 20 bags of rice and 29 barrels of milk powder of 225 pounds each for free distribution to poor families in the affected villages. The Health staff are getting useful assistance from the Revenue department. The Collector's allotment of rice and milk powder has been very opportune. A telegram from Ponnani received by the Prime Minister at New Delhi was communicated to this Government about a fortnight ago. The Collector reports that the situation is now under control. Mass inoculation is still continued. Arrangements have been made in the local hospital for the treatment of patients. Orders have been issued for the opening of a gruel centre for a period of one month to relieve the distress of the coir labourers at Kadavanad and its neighbourhood."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, on the 27th of November the deaths from cholera were reported to be 25; on the 29th it was 31, on the 30th it was 33 and on December 5 it was 46. May I know, Sir, why the Collector waited till the 6th December to notify the area as a cholera-affected one? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" It was only a sporadic infection. As soon as the matter came to the notice of the

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Public Health authorities, the Health Inspector went there first. He was followed by the Assistant Health Officer and then the District Health Officer also went there. Subsequently on the 5th December the Assistant Director of Public Health also visited the place and it was at his instance the notification was issued."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, may I know whether the notification is made in every case only after the Health Officer or the Assistant Director of Public Health visited the place, or is it made by the Collector of his own accord? In this case, the Assistant Director of Public Health visited the place on the 5th and the notification was made only on the 6th December."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is a difference of a day only."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, may I know whether the spread of cholera in Ponnani taluk was due to the belated efforts of the authorities to take preventive measures? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No, Sir. As soon as information was received very prompt measures have been taken."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, will the Government be pleased to see that rice is available in plenty in that area for some time to come by the abolition of the zonal system so that there may not be a recurrence of cholera? As the Hon. the Health Minister knows prevention is better than cure."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, this question may be addressed to my colleague, the Hon. the Minister for Food."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" പൊന്നാനി താലൂക്ക് മലബാറിൽ ഏററവും അധികം കമ്മിപ്രദേശമാണ് എന്നും, പട്ടിണി വളരെ അധികം പടർന്നു പിടിച്ച പ്രദേശമാണ് എന്നുമുള്ള പരമാർത്ഥത്തിന്റെ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ, അവിടെയുള്ള ആയിരക്കണക്കിലുള്ള ആളുകൾ വേറെ ഭക്ഷണം കഴിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതു കൊണ്ടാണ്, ഈ ഷെൽ ഫിഷും പിണ്ണാക്കും തിന്നുവാൻ ഇടവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതുതന്നെ എന്ന പരമാർത്ഥത്തിന്റെ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ, ഈ 20 ചാക്കു അരി അവിടെ അയച്ചതു വളരെ കുറവായിപ്പോയി എന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കി, ഇന്നു അവിടെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഭക്ഷണമാണ് ദൈവത്തിന്റെ രൂപത്തിൽ ആവശ്യം ആയിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കി അടിയന്തരമായി ഇനിയും അരി അവിടേക്കു അയക്കുവാൻ ഗവമ്മേണ്ടു് തെയ്യാറാകുമോ ?"

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" பொன்ஞணி தாலூகாவைப் பற்ருக் குறைப் பகுதி என்ற காரணத்திஞல் . . ."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Translation into Tamil is unnecessary as it would have to be again translated as far as the Hon. the Minister for Public Health is concerned."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, I will put my question in English.

" In view of the fact that Ponnani is the most deficit area in Malabar district and in view of the fact that thousands of people are starving and these cholera cases are due to starvation,

will the Hon. Minister for Public Health be pleased to note that the 20 bags of rice distributed were quite meagre and that even now the people are suffering greatly and will he be therefore pleased to see that more rice is immediately made available? It is God in the form of rice that has to be sent immediately to Ponnani.''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' Sir, The District Collector is watching the situation and he will take all requisite relief measures.''

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—'' Sir, the Hon. the Minister spoke of adequate and immediate preventive measures being taken. Is it not a fact that till 46 deaths took place, only one Health Inspector was employed to meet the situation in six villages? ''

SRI V. MADANAGOPAL :—'' Sir, on a point of order, மலையாள ஜில்லாவினுடைய பிரச்னைகளுக்கும் தமிழ் நாட்டிலுள்ள பிரச்னைகளுக்கும் ஒன்றுக்கொன்று வித்தியாசமாகவும் சிக்கலாகவும் இருக்கிறது. ஆந்திர நண்பர்களை எப்படி சந்தோஷமாக அனுப்பிவைத்தோமோ, அதே மாதிரி மலையாள நண்பர்களையும் அவர்கள் தாயகத்தோடு சேர்த்து வைத்து விட்டால் எல்லோருக்கும் சந்தோஷமாக இருக்கும்.'' (சிரிப்பு.)

(Some disturbanee in the visitors' gallery.)

MR. SPEAKER :—'' If there is noise from the visitors' gallery, I will have to clear it.''

11-30 a.m. SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—'' Is it not a fact that till 46 deaths had taken place only one Health Inspector was employed to inoculate and meet the situation in six villages? The area was notified as a cholera-affected area only on the 6th December? ''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' I have already said that as soon as information was received, steps have been taken to inoculate people and to send people for treatment to the nearest hospital.''

Restrictions on hand-carts in regard to the use of certain ***roads in the City.***

* 139-D *Q.*—SRI C. RAJAM RAMASWAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether any representations have been made in regard to the experimental restrictions imposed on hand-carts using certain roads in George-town during certain hours of the day and whether Government have come to any decisions on the results of the experience gained?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—'' Government have not yet finally appraised the experiment. But full freedom of movement for hand-carts and other slow-moving goods laden carts so far as afternoons are concerned will be restored at once. The question of continuance of the restrictions for some hours in the mornings, in certain roads is being examined.''